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## Southern Politics

### The Moody Waters in South Carolina are Clearing Up.

The Controversy Between Captain Capers and Duke Deas Explained—Old Line Republicans Turned Down to Make Places for New Recruits—A History of the Conversion of McLaurin and Capers—Why Chairman Deas is Soon.

July 13, 1903.

Editor of The Colored American.

Sir: I desire to avail myself of the opportunity of replying to the article in your most valuable paper of the 4th instant, headed "South Carolina Politics," in a writeup of one John G. Capers, late of Maryland and your city. If what you said of John G. Capers in said article be true, then you ought to get down upon your knees, apologize to him and seek forgiveness for what you have said of him and the other criminal office holding Democrats that were being foisted upon us in the issues of your paper during December, 1901; and subsequently in January, February and March, 1902. You properly criticised them, and their conduct since justified everything you said at the time stated. I shall take it for granted, then, that this last writeup of John G. Capers is as advertisement, and at advertisement rates. "Oh, consistency, thou art a jewel." Yes, during that time there was nothing too good for you to say of Hon. E. H. Deas in commending his course as wise and great, etc. Well, what has caused this "presto, changs?"

As to Capers' Revolutionary ancestors and historical matter, we care nothing and admit all; but in passing I will say that frequently there is a "shabby or black sheep in nearly every flock, and my experience is that scions of great sires are not what their fathers were. Most of them are beats, deadheads, and are all things to all men.

Capers now saddles all of these appointments upon McLaurin. That is, you do so for him (Capers) and he makes the fearful admission that they are Democrats. Always heretofore they were denominated Republicans, while we know that they are Democrats. Well, I suppose it is of easy proof that McLaurin and Capers were and are one, and the same person in point of agreement and recommendation of persons for office. Capers did secretary work for McLaurin, even to the extent of writing his newspaper articles. McLaurin championed his cause for District attorney and again for member of the Republican National Committee. Mr. Webster, collector of internal revenue and member of the Republican National Committee, died September 17th or 18th, 1901, about 12

## Men of the Hour.



HON. EDMOND H. DEAS,

Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, Darlington, S. C.

o'clock. The information was wired Mr. Capers, then at Washington, and he and Senator McLaurin started a merry chase running Senator Hanna down to get him to appoint Capers member of the Republican National Committee. They took dinner together and the Ohio Senator's Democratic South Carolina Senator and his protegee caged the latter's appointment. It was promised, but Capers was required to get a majority of the Republican State executive committee's endorsement. If he could not do that he was to get as many as possible, and if he could not get very many of them to get as many other prominent Republicans as he could; but whether he (Capers) got any or not he would be appointed. Webster wasn't cold in death, but Capers started the wires and also left himself on the next train

for South Carolina. He did not get more than three members of the committee, if that much; still he was appointed. This is of easy proof, and the first witness I'd call would be Mr. Capers himself.

This occurred, too, while Senator Hanna and other prominent officials were busy attending the funeral ceremonies of his dead friend and President (Wm. McKinley), whose remains were lying in state at the Capitol at Washington, D. C. This was the respect paid the voiceless dead—the head of a great nation and the leader of South Carolina Republican politics. not quite cold in death. McLaurin was running the politics of both parties at that time in South Carolina. Mr. Cooper, we would like for you to separate these Democratic appointments in

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## True Reformers Here

### The Great Washington Hall Dedicated with Eclat

The True Reformers' New Hall a Large, Commodious Building and a Handsome Structure—White People Had No Hand in Its Erection—President Roosevelt's Approval—The Banquet and Other Features—Notes.

Washington Hall was dedicated yesterday by the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers. The building is at Twelfth and U streets northwest, and has been erected as headquarters of the True Reformers of the District of Columbia. The cost was \$60,000. Rev. W. L. Taylor, president of the National order, of Richmond, Va., presided at the dedicatory services in the afternoon. Hon. J. C. Dancy, recorder of deeds, and Commissioner H. B. F. Macfarland made addresses and a letter of congratulation was read from President Roosevelt.

President Roosevelt was on the programme for an address, but a letter dated June 18, at the White House, informed the committee on arrangements that he could not be present. Another letter from the President was read at the same time when he was to have spoken. It was addressed to Rev. W. L. Taylor, and read:

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

"My Dear Sir: I wish I could be present at the dedication of the hall. I most earnestly believe in all industrial and beneficial organizations of this character whose purpose is to teach the lessons of thrift, economy, industry, self-dependence, and self-reliance. I am particularly pleased to learn that your institution is entirely out of debt. No one can watch with more zealous interest than I do the progress of the colored race; and with the colored man, as with the white man, the first step must be for him to show his ability to take care of himself and those dependent upon him. With all good wishes, sincerely yours,

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

The dedicatory exercises began at 10:30 o'clock. F. W. Dixon, secretary of the executive committee on dedication, called the assembly to order. A choir rendered "Solomon's Prayer," by Root, and Rev. A. C. Garner invoked divine blessings. Mozart's "Gloria" was sung by the choir, and Mr. E. W. Turner, chairman of the local executive committee, was introduced as master of ceremonies.

A number of letters of regret at their inability to attend was read by Miss Minnie A. Lucas. Then, with impressive ceremonies, J. A. Lankford, the architect, surrendered the keys of the building to Rev. W. L. Taylor, president of the District organization. Af-

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